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OLC 73-1106

20 September 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Meeting with Chairman J. W. Fulbright,  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee, re Agency  
Support of [REDACTED]

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1. This afternoon I accompanied the Director to a meeting with  
Chairman Fulbright in response to Fulbright's letters to Mr. Colby  
inquiring about Agency support of [REDACTED]

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3. Senator Fulbright reiterated his earlier contentions that the  
[REDACTED] and other U.S. activities, [REDACTED]  
was an irritant and provocation to the Russians and hence our involvement  
in any such activity would constitute an obstacle to our professed policy of  
detente. Mr. Colby explained that [REDACTED] support was but one of a  
number of U.S. activities reflecting broad Administration policy, and that  
it had been approved by the 40 Committee. He explained that this project  
was based on the broad purpose of moderating the harshness of Soviet  
dictatorship by stimulating peaceful intellectual and cultural dissent and  
keeping at least some pressure on the Soviet leadership from the influential  
liberal groups. He emphasized that [REDACTED] was not committed  
to violence or the forceful overthrow of the Soviet regime.

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4. Senator Fulbright reiterated his feeling that any such activity was bound to be counterproductive of the policy of detente and proceeded to enumerate various other measures, including several sponsored by Senator Jackson which he felt were having an unfortunate affect on Soviet-American relations.

5. Senator Fulbright then spoke of congressional concern over the size of the intelligence community and its budget, and asked the Director's views on a joint oversight committee. The Director said that we deferred entirely to the decisions of the Congress as to how the congressional oversight problem should be handled. Fulbright expressed skepticism remarking that the Director probably couldn't say anything else. The Director assured him that these were his candid views.

6. The Senator asked about the Agency's role in the Chilean coup and the Director assured him we had nothing whatever to do with this other than to report such information as we had on the subject.

7. The Senator then spoke of the deplorable state of affairs in the Congress, lamenting the fact that Congress had completely failed to discharge its responsibilities regarding current major national issues.

8. Senator Fulbright's general attitude throughout was most cordial and he gave no indication of wishing to make a major issue out of [redacted] matter. He did, however, leave the clear impression that he felt the present congressional oversight procedures were completely inadequate. 25X1C

25X1A

[redacted]  
JOHN M. MAURY  
Legislative Counsel

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